Withdrawal of floor price of steel

*51. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons as to why the floor price of steel has been withdrawn with effect from 31st December, 1999, while the Steel Industry is almost making the same level of losses;

(b) whether the Commerce Ministry is going to come out with Export Securitisation in large volumes;

(c) whether there is any proposal for Export Securitisation from the companies producing steel; and

(d) how many proposals are pending in the Commerce Ministry and how long?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Floor price mechanism was introduced as a temporary measure to provide the domestic steel industry a level playing field and to regulate cheap imports during a period of rapidly falling international prices. Since the international prices of Steel have now stabilised, the domestic steel industry should be able to withstand the competition.

There is no proposal under consideration regarding undertaking of export securitisation in large volumes by the Commerce Ministry. There is only one proposal received from a company producing steel by the Ministry in February, 1999.

Non-Collection of data on Disabled in the Census 2001

*52. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Disabled angry at non-inclusion" in the Hindustan Times, dated 31st January, 2000 (New Delhi); and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has always been concerned about collecting accurate data on the number of disabled persons in the country. Data on disability was